

Serial No. Filing Date

I.

II.

Art Unit

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| IV. 🖂 | | OS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b): (check one box) |
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| | a. 🗌 | within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1)). No fee or statement is required. |
| | b. | within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(2)). No fee or statement is required. |
| | c.🏻 | before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3)). No fee or statement is required. |
| | d. | before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114 (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(4)). No fee or statement is required. |
| v. 🗖 | before t | OS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c): (check one box) the mailing date of any of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, a Notice of ince under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the ion (See 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)). No statement; therefore, charge deposit account 50-2117 the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p). |
| | b. 🔲 | See the statement below. No fee is required. |
| VI. 🗌 | | OS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d): efore payment of the issue fee and is accompanied by the following: a statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) as provided below; and charge deposit account 50-2117 the petition fee set forth in §1.17(p). |
| VII. 🔲 | | MENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) (check only one box, if applicable) |
| | The unc | lersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months |
| | b. | prior to the filing of IDS; or no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and to knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement, or |
| | с. | some of the items of information contained in the IDS were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned states that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby states that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. |
| VIII. | PAYMI | A check in the amount of is enclosed for the above-identified fee(s). Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-2117 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above- |
| | \boxtimes | indicated fee(s). If Applicant has overlooked any additional fees, or if any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit or debit Deposit Account 50-2117 |

The above references are being cited only in the interests of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art or contain matter which anticipates the invention or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in a combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 50-2117.

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Steven A. May

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Reg. No. 44,912 Tel. 847-576-3635

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Enclosures:

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References Foreign Search Report

Other:

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| | | | | Application Number | 09/535,924 | | | |
| INFORMA | TION DISCLOSU | JRE | | Filing Date | 03/24/2000 | | | |
| STATEME | NT BY APPLICA | NT | | First Named Inventor | Pan et al. | | | |
| | | | | Group Art Unit | 2739 | | | |
| (use as many | (use as many sheets as necessary) | | | Examiner Name | Unknown | | | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | CE08345R | | | |

| | | | | U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | |
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